Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A traction assembly comprising:

a wheel ~~comprising~~ having a rotational axis ~~wheel shaft~~, and a first radius extending from the rotational axis to an exterior surface of the wheel, wherein the exterior surface of the wheel engages a static, non-rotating surface while the traction assembly is in operation;

an electric motor that directly drives the wheel, wherein the electric motor includes a rotor situated around the rotational axis at a second radius from the rotational axis, and a stator situated around the rotational axis at a third radius from the rotational axis, wherein the second radius is different from the third radius;

a gap situated around the rotational axis between the rotor and the stator; ~~and~~

wherein the electric motor ~~traction means which~~, while in operation, ~~exert~~ exerts torque ~~on~~ that drives the wheel~~-shaft~~, the torque having an arm extending from the rotational axis to a surface of the gap;~~,~~ and

wherein the traction assembly has a traction ratio, ~~being~~ defined as the arm of the torque divided by ~~a~~ the first radius ~~of the wheel~~, which is larger than 0.57.

2. (Original) The traction assembly according to claim 1, wherein the traction ratio is larger than 0.65.

3. (Original) The traction assembly according to claim 2, wherein the traction ratio is larger than 0.7.

4. (Original) The traction assembly according to claim 3, wherein the traction ratio is smaller than 1.0.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The traction assembly according to claim <u>1</u> ~~5~~, wherein the electric motor is a synchronous motor provided with permanent magnets.

7. (Currently amended) The traction assembly according to <u>claim</u> ~~claims 5 0r~~ 6, wherein the ~~electric motor comprises a~~ stator <u>is</u> provided with the windings which with respect to a vehicle are statically arranged in the vehicle and ~~a~~ <u>the</u> rotor <u>is</u> provided with ~~the~~ permanent magnets.

8. (Original) The traction assembly according to claim 7, comprising operating and control means for the operation of the electric motor within the stator.

9. (Original) The traction assembly according to claim 8, wherein the rotor is arranged coaxially with the stator and connected to a drive shaft of the electric motor.

10. (Currently amended) The traction assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ~~traction means are~~ electric motor is mounted adjacent to the wheel.

11. (Currently amended) The traction assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ~~traction means comprise~~ the electric motor includes a drive shaft, and the drive shaft and ~~the~~ a wheel shaft are situated in axial alignment along the rotational axis ~~line~~, in each other's extension.

12. (Currently amended) The traction assembly of claim 1, wherein the ~~traction means comprise~~ electric motor includes a drive shaft, wherein the drive shaft directly drives ~~the~~ a wheel shaft.

13. (Original) The traction assembly according to claim 12, wherein the drive shaft is the wheel shaft.

14. (Original) The traction assembly according to claim 7, wherein the permanent magnets are connected to the wheel shaft.

15.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) The traction assembly according to claim 1, wherein the electric motor is situated inside the wheel.

18. (New) The traction assembly according to claim 1, wherein the wheel further comprises a tire, and the exterior surface of the wheel corresponds to an exterior surface of the tire.

19. (New) The traction assembly of claim 1, wherein the static, non-rotating surface is a road surface.

20. (New) The traction assembly of claim 1, wherein the arm of the torque extends from the rotational axis to an inner diameter of the rotor.